

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. : 11652: GDS TAGS : PINT, IT

SUBJ : RECONSTRUCTION OF THE FRIULI

1. SUMMARY. ITALIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AGREED APRIL 29 ON RE-
CONSTRUCTION BILL FOR THE FRIULI CALLING FOR DOLL. 3 BILLION IN
EXPENDITURES OVER FIVE-YEAR PERIOD (1977-1982). IT NOW GOES TO
PARLIAMENT FOR APPROVAL. FUNDING IS ONE OF THE REMAINING BIG
QUESTIONS AND THERE IS SOME TALK ABOUT SEEKING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.
BILL CONTAINS A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY IN FRIULI-VENEZIA.
GIULIA, BUT MOST IMPORTANT CHUNK OF THE FUNDS IS EAR-MARKED FOR
COMPLETION OF LONG-STANDING HIGHWAY-RAIL NETWORK WHICH REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT SOUGHT FRUITLESSLY FOR PAST 10 YEARS, AND WHICH IS
CONSIDERED ESSENTIAL TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRIESTE AS MODERN

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ADRIATIC PORT FOR CENTRAL AND NORTHERN EUROPE. DECISION TO
ESTABLISH UNIVERSITY IN UDINE GREETED WITH GLOOM IN TRIESTE.
END SUMMARY.

2. WITH CABINET APPROVAL OF THE RECONSTRUCTION PACKAGE OF DOLL. 3
BILLION, FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA REGION HAS AT LONG LAST WON FORMAL
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS IT HAS SOUGHT VAINLY
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FOR PAST 10 YEARS. WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THE RECONSTRUCTION PLAN,
DOUBLE RAIL-LINE BETWEEN PONTEBBANA AND THE AUSTRIAN BORDER AND
THE TURNPIKE BETWEEN UDINE AND TRAVISIO (ON THE BORDER) WILL NOW
BE COMPLETED TOGETHER WITH IMPROVEMENT OF THE SECONDARY AND FEELER
ROAD SYSTEM IN THE AREA. WITH THE REMOVAL OF THE HORRENDOUS TRANS-
PORTATION BOTTLENECKS, TRIESTE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO WED ITS
NEW CONTAINERIZED PORT OPERATION TO A MODERN TRANSPORTATION

SYSTEM OFFERING EFFICIENT PORT SERVICE TO THE KEY COMMERCIAL/ INDUSTRIAL CENTERS OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN EUROPE. ABOUT ONE FIFTH OF THE PROGRAM FUNDS IS EAR-MARKED FOR THESE PROJECTS.

3. REMAINDER OF THE FUNDS INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL INCOME TAX EXEMPTIONS AND TAX RELIEF FOR BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, ETC. IN FRIULI-VENEZIA GIULIA AND CONSTRUCTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE (HOMES, BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, TOURISM). BILL ALSO CALLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A

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UNIVERSITY IN UDINE (THREE FACILITIES), AND RESTORATION OF THE FRIULI ARTISTIC PATRIMONY.

4. AS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIVERSITY IN UDINE, THIS BIT OF PARLIAMENTARY LOG-ROLLING REFLECTS THE LOCAL EXIGENCIES OF CULTURAL POLITICS AND UDINE'S PREDOMINANT ROLE AMONG THE FOUR PROVINCES OF THIS REGION. THE DECISION WAS GREETED WITH DISMAY BY TRIESTE UNIVERSITY RECTOR WHO HAD NOT BEEN FOREWARNED OF THE MOVE AND WHO, DESPITE THE GOVERNMENT'S PLEDGE TO STRENGTHEN TRIESTE, IS CONVINCED HE WILL LOSE HALF HIS STUDENT BODY TO THE NEXT NEW UNIVERSITY.

5. FUNDS WILL BE CHANGED THROUGH THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT FOR DISBURSEMENT. STILL TO BE ANSWERED IS THE HOW OF THE FINANCING OF THE DOLL. 3 BILLION PROGRAM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT GOI IS CONSIDERING SERIOUSLY SEEKING FOREIGN FINANCING TO BRIDGE THE SHORTFALLS.

6. COMMENT. ZAMBERLETTI WRAPPED UP HIS TENURE AS SPECIAL COMMISSIONER ON APRIL 30, LEAVING IN HIS WAKE AN UNEXPECTED RESEVOIR OF RESPECT AND EVEN GOOD WILL TOWARDS ROME. MOST PEOPLE INCLUDING THE MEDIA (REGIONAL AND NATIONAL) HAVE EXPRESSED SURPRISE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WAS ABLE TO WIELD ITS POWER EFFECTIVELY AND WITH GOOD PURPOSE. LOCAL VIEW IS THAT THE REGIONAL GOVERNMENT

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FUMBLING THE BALL THE FIRST TIME AROUND LAST MAY AND SEPTEMBER BUT HAS REGAINED A BIT BY ITS PERFORMANCE SINCE THAT TIME. JUST HOW WELL IT HAS RECOVERED WILL BE JUDGED BY THE ELECTORATE NEXT YEAR IN THE REGIONAL ELECTIONS. MOEN.

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